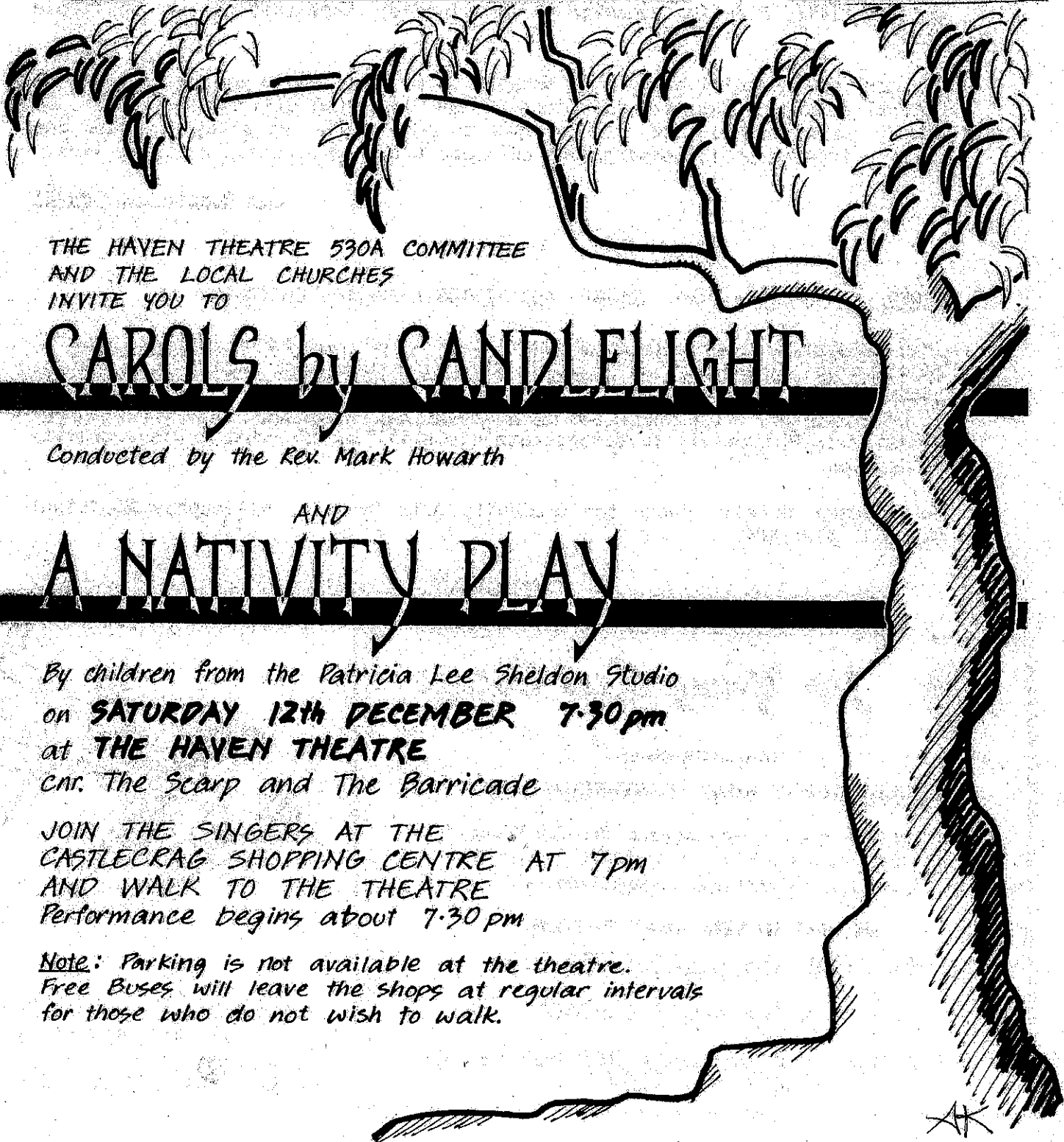


NEWSLETTER OF THE CASTLECRAG PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

NO. 56

* SIXTY TWO YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT *

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1987



THE HAVEN THEATRE 530A COMMITTEE
AND THE LOCAL CHURCHES
INVITE YOU TO

CAROLS by CANDLELIGHT

Conducted by the Rev. Mark Howarth

AND

A NATIVITY PLAY

By children from the Patricia Lee Sheldon Studio
on **SATURDAY 12th DECEMBER 7.30pm**
at **THE HAVEN THEATRE**
cnr. The Scarp and The Barricade

JOIN THE SINGERS AT THE
CASTLECRAG SHOPPING CENTRE AT 7pm
AND WALK TO THE THEATRE
Performance begins about 7.30pm

Note: Parking is not available at the theatre.
Free Buses will leave the shops at regular intervals
for those who do not wish to walk.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Castlecrag a very happy and safe holiday season.

Talking about safety, letters have been sent out to the various traffic authorities concerned, following the letter received by our Association from the Castlecrag Infants School emphasising the need for safety. We have outlined the issues of the dangerous location of the school crossing, our narrow streets, and the speed at which cars travel along Edinburgh Road.

I urge you all to take care when driving in Castlecrag, as we have many young and precious children living here.

As you now know, the Haven Theatre Committee has organised Christmas Carols and a Nativity Play for December 12. We sincerely hope that you all will come along.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 February. This will be the Annual General Meeting, when all positions on the Committee will become vacant. Do make a note of this date, and resolve to come along; we always welcome new members interested in helping keep our suburb a good place in which to live.

Sue Randle (958 6344)

CENTRE ART SPACE - CIVIC CENTRE, 409 VICTORIA AVENUE, CHATSWOOD

7-19 December - Small is Beautiful: Ernie Smith and other artists mount a fascinating exhibition of pieces including heirloom eggs, leatherwork, pottery and porcelain painting.

21 Dec-9 January - Chinese Brush Painting by Zhao Zhunwang: This world famous artist from Beijing is to demonstrate his skill and to exhibit his exquisite collection.

For further details phone the Community Arts Officer, Willoughby Municipal Council, 412 9109.



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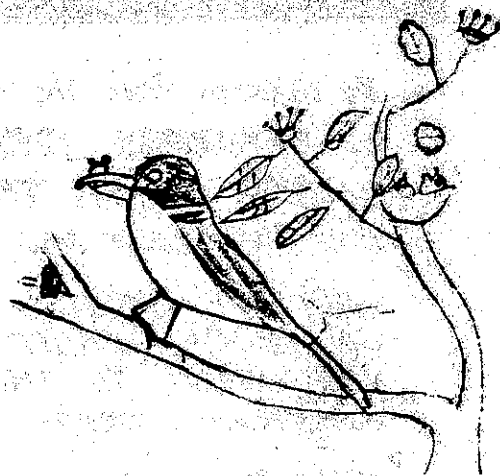
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A butcher bird and its two babies in a nest. The butcher bird has caught a cicada.

By Guy Kabos for The Crag.

AROMATIC IN ALL ITS PARTS

Harold Spies, President,
Castlecrag Conservation Society

The leaves, stems, branches and roots of Camphor laurel (Cinnamomum camphora) are all aromatic. They smell strongly of camphor. Next time you see a Camphor laurel, crush a leaf and smell it.

Introduction and spread: A native tree of China and Japan, Camphor laurel was introduced into Australia and established in the Botanic Gardens by the 1850s. By the 1890s it was 'growing like a weed' around Sydney. Extensive ornamental plantings were made in NSW and Queensland from seeds or seedlings supplied by the Botanic Gardens and the State Forest nurseries. School grounds and many municipal parks were planted with the tree.

The species was widely used as a shade tree and for shelter belts in the Richmond-Tweed region in an attempt to restore the landscape after the removal of the last remnants of the 'big scrub'. It is now estimated that there are 200,000 mature trees in the Richmond-Tweed area. A 15-20 year old mature tree produces about 113,000 black, globular berries, which are spread by currawongs, pigeons, and fig birds.

These trees have few pests and are stable during strong winds. However, their shade is complete and few plants can exist around them. Their leaves are toxic to many plants (Phytoalexins). They have a vigorous root system.

A successful weed: Camphor laurel is now considered an undesirable plant. It has all the attributes of a successful weed species in its excellent adaptation to a disturbed environment, abundant seed production, effective dispersal, and rapid growth rate. Where it occurs near native bushland, it soon colonises to the almost total exclusion of native flora.

Removal: Because of its invasive character and its detrimental effect on native plants in our bushland reserves, large mature trees should be progressively removed from our schools, streets and private gardens as well as bushland. However, because Camphor laurels are trees they are covered by Council's Tree Preservation Order and permission to remove them must be obtained. Smaller trees and seedlings can be readily removed by pulling, digging or use of a mattock. However, any roots left in the ground close to the surface, will shoot. Large trees can be poisoned with 'Roundup' by painting the poison into a series of chisel or saw cuts around the trunk (reference should be made to the manufacturer's instructions). If the tree is cut down the stump top should be painted immediately with the poison. Large trees have a massive root system and unless you are really fit, leave the stump in the ground or obtain professional advice. Similar methods can be used for privet and lantana (see previous issues of The Crag).

WILLOUGHBY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SOCIETY CHRISTMAS MEETING

Harold Spies

The guest speaker at this meeting is from the Friends of Kakadu and he will be illustrating his talk with slides of the Kakadu area. The date is Monday 14th December 8pm at the Artarmon Library, Elizabeth Street (near the station), Artarmon.

This promises to be a very interesting night, and anyone interested in Kakadu is very welcome to join us.

This is a branch of the Willoughby Municipal Library, run by Castlecrag residents on behalf of the Council. Our librarians are Mrs Billie Hume and Mrs Anne Thomas, who are assisted by a group of volunteers.

Our library, located in a room added to the western end of the original Community Centre, was opened on 3 November 1951. The cost of this was met by a donation of \$600 from Willoughby Council and a similar amount raised by our residents. The books were purchased on the same basis.

We have a good range of books, both adult and childrens', and we welcome all residents to join as borrowers. You will be delighted with the friendly atmosphere of our library. You pay for the library in rates - why not use it?

LOCATION: The Community Centre, corner of The Rampart and The Postern.

HOURS: Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm Thursday 12.30-4pm Saturday 10am-noon.

THE LIBRARY WILL CLOSE FOR THE YEAR AT 4.30PM TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER AND WILL REOPEN ON SATURDAY 2 JANUARY 1988.

NEW BOOKS ENTERED IN LIBRARY NOVEMBER 1987:

Davis, B	This and That	Cleary, J	Dragons at the Party
Brooker, A	Friend from England	Aiken, J	Deception
De Silva, C	Last Sinhala Lions	Keneally, T	The Playmaker
Crane, T	Sweetsong Bird	Trenhaile	Gates of Exquisite View
Drabble, M	Radiant Way	Conran, S	Savages
Stead, C	I'm Dying Laughing	Brissenden, R	Poor Boy
Booth, P	The Sisters	Willmot, E	Pemulwuy
Peters, E	Hermit of Eyton Forest	Haines, P	Daughter of North Fields
Spada, J	Grace Kelly (biog)	Wright, P	Spycatcher

FUTURE ACTIVITIES FOR THE CASTLECrag RESERVE/HAVEN THEATRE Lindy Batterham

SUMMER YOGA CLASS: Does stretching and Yoga among the tree ferns surrounded by bushland, appeal to you? On wet mornings we could use one of the local halls. All abilities catered for, from pregnant women to octogenarians, and a child care/playgroup can be organised.

CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT CLASSES: Would your young child (aged three to five years) enjoy eurythmics-type music and movement session once a week at the Haven theatre? The class would encourage and extend the natural abilities of the children through musical games, singing and movement.

If either of these activities interest you, contact Lindy Batterham 958 2127 now. If there is enough interest, classes can begin in February 1988.

OPENING OF ZENITH THEATRE, CHATSWOOD

The opening of the Zenith Theatre will be celebrated on December 5 and 6, with free concerts and recitals which are free to interested members of the municipality. Guided tours of the theatre and its facilities will also be available. Bookings, which are essential, should be made through Ms Angela Turner, Community Arts Officer of Willoughby Council, phone 412 9109.



Neighbourhood watch.

CASTLECRAG

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! HAVE A HAPPY ONE - DON'T SPEND IT WITH THE POLICE!

Do you intend buying presents for your unfriendly neighbourhood thief? Unless you and your neighbours take action, instead of Santa coming - it might be the police, trying to assist you after a break-in.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH was set up to provide neighbours with each other's support. Give that as freely as you would like to receive it. BECOME A MEMBER OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

OBSERVE ... REPORT... LET THE POLICE TAKE OVER - DON'T BE A HERO!

More than 500 expensive sound systems were recently auctioned off by the police because owners could not be traced. Engraving would have obviated the loss by owners.

We can't say it often enough --- LOCK UP ALWAYS ... EVERY DAY ... EVERY THING.

If you are going on holidays, tell your neighbours. Tell them - and only them - where a key of your house may be obtained - don't hide keys around your property - thieves know every kind of nook and cranny and every clever trick you may think of - THEY'RE PROFESSIONALS.

Become a member of NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH now - ring 958 6963 or 958 4887 or 958 4751 and you'll be on your way.

Lock up - keep eyes and ears alert - be a storey - abseiling is the latest trick



PREVENT BURGLARIES

Don't be sorry - lock up your upper storey - abseiling is the latest trick

Good neighbour - report all suspect for gaining entrance.... so, if

acts - 000 is the number - better to be sure you're going away - stop mail, papers and

CASTLECRAG MEATS

CNR RAEBURN AVENUE & EDINBURGH ROAD

TELEPHONE 958 4274

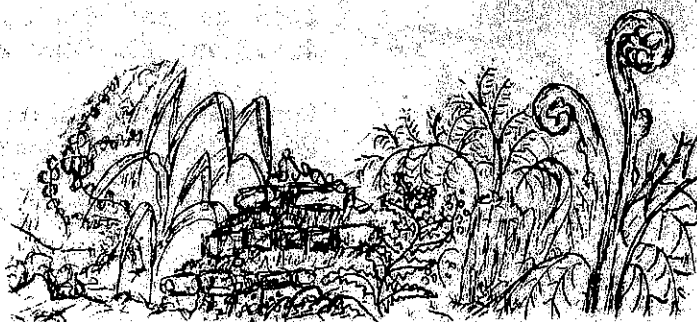
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